

Master Plan Implementation Committee
Report to Town Meeting
October 19, 2016

Town Meeting in 2015 voted to endorse the Arlington Master Plan, "Your Town Your Future" with approximately 75% of its members voting in favor of the Master Plan. Since our last Town Meeting Report dated April 25, 2016, the Implementation Committee has continued to work on implementing the many recommendations contained in the Master Plan.

The Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) is made up of the following members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointing Authority</u>
1. Andrew Bunnell	ARB representative
2. Andrew West	ARB alternate
3. Adam Chapdelaine	Town Manager, ex officio
4. Michael Byrne	Inspectional Services, ex officio
5. Joe Barr (Co-Chair)	ARB appointee
6. Wendy Richter	ARB appointee
7. Ann LeRoyer	Town Meeting Moderator appointee
8. Peter Howard	Finance Committee appointee
9. Charles Kalasuskas (Co-Chair)	Selectmen appointee
10. Ralph Willmer	Selectmen appointee

During the past six (6) months since the last report, four (4) subcommittees have been meeting actively to advance recommendations. A list of members in each of these subcommittees is attached.

The Zoning Recodification Working Group was formed to oversee rewriting and modernizing the Zoning Bylaw. Working closely with the Planning staff, the Group oversaw issuing a Request for Proposals for a consultant to help the Town write a new Zoning Bylaw. Funding for the consultant is coming from Community Development Block Grant, Planning and Administrative funds. Proposals are due October 21. We expect to have amendments ready for a Fall, 2017 Special Town Meeting (assuming one is scheduled). We anticipate a number of public meetings in winter and spring to get input from the community.

The Residential Study Group was formed to address concerns regarding new construction in existing neighborhoods, as requested in a resolution at the Spring, 2016 Town Meeting. The group has been working on developing common goals for future bylaw amendments. Any recommendations they develop will be reviewed by the Zoning Recodification Committee, the Master Plan Implementation Committee and then the Redevelopment Board. The public will be invited to comment on recommendations at multiple points in the process.

The Historic Resources Working Group has representation from the Historical Commission, the Historic Districts Commission, and the Arlington Historical Society. One of its goals is to improve communication and coordination among the groups and with Town staff to improve preservation of the Town's historic resources. Work has begun to apply for funding to update the Town's Inventory of Historically or Architecturally Significant Properties in the Town of Arlington, as recommended in the Master Plan Implementation Program #18. A preliminary application was submitted to the Community Preservation Committee for FY 2018 funds, and will soon be made to the Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC). The MHC program requires a local match, which we hope will be provided by the Community Preservation Act funds.

The **Mill Brook Study Group** was re-formed, to enhance the Mill Brook's environmental value and economic development potential to the Town. The Group includes membership from the Mystic River Watershed Association and the Conservation Commission. The Group recently sponsored a clean-up of a small section of the Brook, around the Reservoir, Hurd Field, and Colonial Village Apartments, where the Brook is in a natural state. The Group will also discuss zoning changes in a few areas to further enable mixed use development. The Group has also begun working with the Parks and Recreation Commission, which has plans for areas that touch the Brook.

A number of near-term and mid-term recommendations of the Master Plan were implemented since Spring Town Meeting.

1. The Housing Production Plan was adopted by the Redevelopment Board on June 20, 2016, and by the Selectmen on July 18, 2016. It awaits State approval from the Department of Housing and Community Development.
2. A Complete Streets policy was adopted by the Selectmen in April, 2016 and accepted by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in May. After submitting a Prioritization Plan, the Town was awarded a grant of \$400,000 for sidewalk and other pedestrian improvements on Gray Street. The goal is to increase walking by students to Ottoson Middle School by improving pedestrian safety on Gray Street.
3. The recommendations in the Arlington Center Parking Management Plan continue to be implemented. Multi-space meters in parking lots have been replaced and single space meters are currently being installed in Arlington Center.

The Master Plan Implementation Committee is pleased to continue working with Town Meeting on turning the recommendations from the Master Plan into reality, and the members are grateful to Town Meeting for your strong and ongoing support.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Kalaus / cas / lw



Charles Kalauskas, Co-Chair
Joseph Barr, Co-Chair